Capital Guardian Youth ChalleNGe Academy is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16- to 18-year-old high school drop-outs, producing program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens. In keeping with their mission, CGYCA invited the Metropolitan Police’s Victim Services Branch (VSB) to their campus to speak with their cadets about the victim-related services and the importance of making a positive change. During this discussion, participants learned about the impact of violent crime on our communities and VSB’s role in providing supportive services to families and the community. This discussion caused the young people to reflect and opened the door to share the importance of making positive changes and conflict resolution. More importantly, it was emphasized to the audience that the only people that can stop them from achieving their goals are themselves. By entering the CGYCA program, they have taken the first step in a positive direction. If you know of any young people who can benefit from our partners at CGYCA please visit http://www.cgyca.org.

---Mark Timberlake

GIVING VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES A VOICE

A Publication of the Metropolitan Police Department’s Victim Services Branch

Message from Tyria Fields

This past 16 months has been particularly challenging for everyone. Some have dealt with personal loss and trauma. Many have discovered new paths in effort to recover and gain a sense of direction. And all are yearning for the “new normal.” Whatever your particular circumstance, please know the Metropolitan Police Department is here to help. The Victim Services Branch is fully staffed, readily available and purposefully engaged with the community to provide meaningful trauma-informed victim services. Our mission to support survivors is the driving force or our advocacy work. We stand with you. You are not alone.

---Tyria Fields

Upcoming Events and Activities

All Summer

Beat the Streets

Sat 7/31, 5-9 pm

This community outreach event serves as a traveling Community Festival and is a partnership between the Metropolitan Police Department, local social service agencies and community vendors. In a 3- to 5-hour block of time, community members (of all ages) enjoy musical performances from local bands and artists, as well as a street festival-like environment with local vendors and literature distributed by local social service agencies. This is an opportunity for members of the community to experience the lighter side of the police department while enjoying dancing, free food and fun.

Agency: DC Metropolitan Police Department & partner agencies

Where/When: All Summer/In-person

See link for specific dates & locations:
https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/beat-streets-2021

The Gun Violence Memorial Project Collection Event

Through September 30, 2021

The memorial seeks to preserve individual memories and communicate the magnitude of gun violence in the built space, and hopes to foster a national healing process that begins with a recognition of the collective loss and impact on society. The exhibition features four houses built of 700 glass bricks, each house representing the average number of lives taken due to gun violence each week in America. Families who have had loved one taken due to gun violence in any form have contributed remembrance objects at in-person collection events.

Agency: MASS Design Group, Hank Willis Thomas (artist), Purpose Over Pain & Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund

Where: National Building Museum 401 F St NW, Washington, DC

Contact: Ann Harper awright@everytown.org

National Day of Remembrance for Murdered Victims

Saturday, September 25

This day is dedicated to honoring homicide victims and their surviving family members. It is also a day to bring public awareness to the impact of homicide and violent crimes in our communities. https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/national-day-remembrance-murder-victims

Ongoing

Prayer Helpline Support Team

Daily, 7 am–10 pm

DCAEHS, Inc., is very thankful for the opportunities to help our communities! We are a Community Pastor, so if the community needs to have a Virtual Service for the loss of a loved one, we are available with no charge and we can assist them through the process.

Agency: DC Alliance Empowering Homicide Survivors, Inc.

Where: Teleconference Line - (240) 809-3481 (Must leave your Prayer Requests; ALL calls will be returned)

Contact: Pastor P. Saunders, CEO, (301) 240-9883 or email Minister Mathis at lorri@5420@gmail.com

PSA 702 Outreach Committee

General Tuesday of Every Month, 2 pm

The Police Service Area 702 Outreach Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month at 2:00 pm by Zoom (with the exception of the month of August).

Agency: PSA 702 Outreach Committee

Contact: Brenda Richardson (202) 678.1978 brendarichardson724@gmail.com

Contact: Brenda Richardson (202) 678.1978 brendarichardson724@gmail.com

Email us at victim.services@dc.gov

SUMMER 2021 | 1

Victim Services Visits the Capital Guardian Youth ChalleNGe Academy

Victim Services Visits the Capital Guardian Youth ChalleNGe Academy (CGYCA) is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16- to 18-year-old high school drop-outs, producing program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens. In keeping with their mission, CGYCA invited the Metropolitan Police’s Victim Services Branch (VSB) to their campus to speak with their cadets about the victim-related services and the importance of making a positive change. During this discussion, participants learned about the impact of violent crime on our communities and VSB’s role in providing supportive services to families and the community. This discussion caused the young people to reflect and opened the door to share the importance of making positive changes and conflict resolution. More importantly, it was emphasized to the audience that the only people that can stop them from achieving their goals are themselves. By entering the CGYCA program, they have taken the first step in a positive direction. If you know of any young people who can benefit from our partners at CGYCA please visit http://www.cgyca.org.

---Mark Timberlake

Empower!

Giving Victims and Their Families a Voice

A Publication of the Metropolitan Police Department’s Victim Services Branch

Message from Tyria Fields

This past 16 months has been particularly challenging for everyone. Some have dealt with personal loss and trauma. Many have discovered new paths in effort to recover and gain a sense of direction. And all are yearning for the “new normal.” Whatever your particular circumstance, please know the Metropolitan Police Department is here to help. The Victim Services Branch is fully staffed, readily available and purposefully engaged with the community to provide meaningful trauma-informed victim services. Our mission to support survivors is the driving force or our advocacy work. We stand with you. You are not alone.

---Tyria Fields

Upcoming Events and Activities

All Summer

Beat the Streets

Sat 7/31, 5-9 pm

This community outreach event serves as a traveling Community Festival and is a partnership between the Metropolitan Police Department, local social service agencies and community vendors. In a 3- to 5-hour block of time, community members (of all ages) enjoy musical performances from local bands and artists, as well as a street festival-like environment with local vendors and literature distributed by local social service agencies. This is an opportunity for members of the community to experience the lighter side of the police department while enjoying dancing, free food and fun.

Agency: DC Metropolitan Police Department & partner agencies

Where/When: All Summer/In-person

See link for specific dates & locations:
https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/beat-streets-2021

The Gun Violence Memorial Project Collection Event

Through September 30, 2021

The memorial seeks to preserve individual memories and communicate the magnitude of gun violence in the built space, and hopes to foster a national healing process that begins with a recognition of the collective loss and impact on society. The exhibition features four houses built of 700 glass bricks, each house representing the average number of lives taken due to gun violence each week in America. Families who have had loved one taken due to gun violence in any form have contributed remembrance objects at in-person collection events.

Agency: MASS Design Group, Hank Willis Thomas (artist), Purpose Over Pain & Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund

Where: National Building Museum 401 F St NW, Washington, DC

Contact: Ann Harper awright@everytown.org

National Day of Remembrance for Murdered Victims

Saturday, September 25

This day is dedicated to honoring homicide victims and their surviving family members. It is also a day to bring public awareness to the impact of homicide and violent crimes in our communities. https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/national-day-remembrance-murder-victims

Ongoing

Prayer Helpline Support Team

Daily, 7 am–10 pm

DCAEHS, Inc., is very thankful for the opportunities to help our communities! We are a Community Pastor, so if the community needs to have a Virtual Service for the loss of a loved one, we are available with no charge and we can assist them through the process.

Agency: DC Alliance Empowering Homicide Survivors, Inc.

Where: Teleconference Line - (240) 809-3481 (Must leave your Prayer Requests; ALL calls will be returned)

Contact: Pastor P. Saunders, CEO, (301) 240-9883 or email Minister Mathis at lorri@5420@gmail.com

PSA 702 Outreach Committee

General Tuesday of Every Month, 2 pm

The Police Service Area 702 Outreach Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month at 2:00 pm by Zoom (with the exception of the month of August).

Agency: PSA 702 Outreach Committee

Contact: Brenda Richardson (202) 678.1978 brendarichardson724@gmail.com

Contact: Brenda Richardson (202) 678.1978 brendarichardson724@gmail.com

Email us at victim.services@dc.gov

SUMMER 2021 | 1
Families and survivors of homicide experience unimaginable grief, pain, and trauma. Although psychological trauma is a primary effect of losing a loved one, secondary victims also encounter financial stress due to crime-related expenses. Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Victim Services Branch (VSB) recognizes these burdens. Our Victim Specialists act as a conduit to provide survivors with emotional support, information, and referrals to community agencies that provide therapeutic services and financial assistance. VSB has Victims Specialists located in the District to serve survivors one-on-one and act as liaison between the victim and detective. Specialists also engage community partners to foster relationships to meet the needs of survivors throughout the wards.

Locally in Ward 7, Wendt Center for Loss & Healing has been a focal community agency since 1975. According to Wendt Center’s website, the agency has been nationally acclaimed for their knowledge and expertise in grief, loss, support, and healing. Wendt Center incorporates inclusivity, understanding, and empathy to empower survivors of homicide.

National resources are available to family members or individuals who need immediate counseling support. Most nationwide hotlines operate 24/7, 365 days a year. Surrounded by all a toll-free number to access immediate services. However, as technology advances, organizations now offer support services online or over the phone.

To obtain more information and resources related to cold case homicides, please contact MPD’s Victim Services Branch at 202-727-4343 or visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unresolved-homicides.

DC Opens First-of-Its-Kind Gun Violence Prevention Emergency Operations Center

In February 2021, Mayor Bowser held a press conference introducing the Building Blocks DC, a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Building Blocks DC. To quote Mayor Bowser, “Today we are reimagining the scope of gun violence for what it is: a public health crisis that requires a whole government approach focused on people and places in our community.” The EOC is located in Ward 8 in Historic Anacostia. Employees from various District Government Agencies are detailed to work together to tackle an issue that is impacting many of the communities we live and work in. As a member of the EOC, I work with other agencies to maintain continuous communication with survivors. This communication empowers families and gives them a voice to help keep the case of their loved one active.

Keeping Up With Cold Case Investigations – Next-of-Kin Meeting

In many homicide investigations, family members of homicide victims provide law enforcement with vital information that can lead to identifying and arresting the offender. The same is true in cold case homicides; law enforcement work to maintain continuous communication with survivors. This communication empowers families and gives them a voice to help keep the case of their loved one active.

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, families with open cases from 2011 participated in the Metropolitan Police Department’s 10-Year Review Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting. These meetings ensure that the communication between the Department and survivors continues throughout the investigation process. Detectives provided updates to the families who attended to discuss the case.

Victim Services Branch’s ‘Now You Know Roundtable’ Honors Pride Month

Victim Services Branch was on site to provide emotional support, referrals to community-based organizations, information about the Crime Victims Compensation Program, and bring the criminal justice system, and discuss any unmet needs. Resources and related to cold case homicides, please contact MPD’s Victim Services Branch Family Liaisons Specialists Unit at (202) 680-0363 or visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unresolved-homicides.

Wide Array of Resources Exist for Families Experiencing Strains of Homicide Loss

Wendt Center provides unique therapy to address loss, livability, and redefine how to navigate life after a death. Counseling Services – The Wendt Center provides therapy for families and survivors to address grief, loss, and trauma. Employees from various District Government Agencies are detailed to work together to tackle an issue that is impacting many of the communities we live and work in. As a member of the EOC, I work with other agencies to maintain continuous communication with survivors. This communication empowers families and gives them a voice to help keep the case of their loved one active.

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, families with open cases from 2011 participated in the Metropolitan Police Department’s 10-Year Review Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting. These meetings ensure that the communication between the Department and survivors continues throughout the investigation process. Detectives provided updates to the families who attended to discuss the case.

Victim Services Branch was on site to provide emotional support, referrals to community-based organizations, information about the Crime Victims Compensation Program, and bring the criminal justice system, and discuss any unmet needs. Resources and related to cold case homicides, please contact MPD’s Victim Services Branch Family Liaisons Specialists Unit at (202) 680-0363 or visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unresolved-homicides.

Keeping Up With Cold Case Investigations – Next-of-Kin Meeting

In many homicide investigations, family members of homicide victims provide law enforcement with vital information that can lead to identifying and arresting the offender. The same is true in cold case homicides; law enforcement work to maintain continuous communication with survivors. This communication empowers families and gives them a voice to help keep the case of their loved one active.

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, families with open cases from 2011 participated in the Metropolitan Police Department’s 10-Year Review Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting. These meetings ensure that the communication between the Department and survivors continues throughout the investigation process. Detectives provided updates to the families who attended to discuss the case.

Victim Services Branch was on site to provide emotional support, referrals to community-based organizations, information about the Crime Victims Compensation Program, and bring the criminal justice system, and discuss any unmet needs. Resources and related to cold case homicides, please contact MPD’s Victim Services Branch Family Liaisons Specialists Unit at (202) 680-0363 or visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unresolved-homicides.

Keeping Up With Cold Case Investigations – Next-of-Kin Meeting

In many homicide investigations, family members of homicide victims provide law enforcement with vital information that can lead to identifying and arresting the offender. The same is true in cold case homicides; law enforcement work to maintain continuous communication with survivors. This communication empowers families and gives them a voice to help keep the case of their loved one active.

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, families with open cases from 2011 participated in the Metropolitan Police Department’s 10-Year Review Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting. These meetings ensure that the communication between the Department and survivors continues throughout the investigation process. Detectives provided updates to the families who attended to discuss the case.

Victim Services Branch was on site to provide emotional support, referrals to community-based organizations, information about the Crime Victims Compensation Program, and bring the criminal justice system, and discuss any unmet needs. Resources and related to cold case homicides, please contact MPD’s Victim Services Branch Family Liaisons Specialists Unit at (202) 680-0363 or visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unresolved-homicides.

Keeping Up With Cold Case Investigations – Next-of-Kin Meeting

In many homicide investigations, family members of homicide victims provide law enforcement with vital information that can lead to identifying and arresting the offender. The same is true in cold case homicides; law enforcement work to maintain continuous communication with survivors. This communication empowers families and gives them a voice to help keep the case of their loved one active.

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, families with open cases from 2011 participated in the Metropolitan Police Department’s 10-Year Review Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting. These meetings ensure that the communication between the Department and survivors continues throughout the investigation process. Detectives provided updates to the families who attended to discuss the case.

Victim Services Branch was on site to provide emotional support, referrals to community-based organizations, information about the Crime Victims Compensation Program, and bring the criminal justice system, and discuss any unmet needs. Resources and related to cold case homicides, please contact MPD’s Victim Services Branch Family Liaisons Specialists Unit at (202) 680-0363 or visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unresolved-homicides.

Keeping Up With Cold Case Investigations – Next-of-Kin Meeting

In many homicide investigations, family members of homicide victims provide law enforcement with vital information that can lead to identifying and arresting the offender. The same is true in cold case homicides; law enforcement work to maintain continuous communication with survivors. This communication empowers families and gives them a voice to help keep the case of their loved one active.

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, families with open cases from 2011 participated in the Metropolitan Police Department’s 10-Year Review Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting. These meetings ensure that the communication between the Department and survivors continues throughout the investigation process. Detectives provided updates to the families who attended to discuss the case.

Victim Services Branch was on site to provide emotional support, referrals to community-based organizations, information about the Crime Victims Compensation Program, and bring the criminal justice system, and discuss any unmet needs. Resources and related to cold case homicides, please contact MPD’s Victim Services Branch Family Liaisons Specialists Unit at (202) 680-0363 or visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unresolved-homicides.

Keeping Up With Cold Case Investigations – Next-of-Kin Meeting

In many homicide investigations, family members of homicide victims provide law enforcement with vital information that can lead to identifying and arresting the offender. The same is true in cold case homicides; law enforcement work to maintain continuous communication with survivors. This communication empowers families and gives them a voice to help keep the case of their loved one active.

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, families with open cases from 2011 participated in the Metropolitan Police Department’s 10-Year Review Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting. These meetings ensure that the communication between the Department and survivors continues throughout the investigation process. Detectives provided updates to the families who attended to discuss the case.

Victim Services Branch was on site to provide emotional support, referrals to community-based organizations, information about the Crime Victims Compensation Program, and bring the criminal justice system, and discuss any unmet needs. Resources and related to cold case homicides, please contact MPD’s Victim Services Branch Family Liaisons Specialists Unit at (202) 680-0363 or visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unresolved-homicides.